

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1785

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS ZA RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: DECISION OF FOUR PRESIDENTS MEETING SEPT 13
IN LUSAKA

1. ZAMBIAN FONMIN BANDA TOLD ME IT WAS DECIDED AT SEPT 13
LUSAKA MEETING OF PRESIDENTS NYERERE (CHAIRMAN), KAUNDA,
MACHEP AND KHAMA, THAT GOVTS OF TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE
AND BOTSWANA WOULD HENCEFORTH HAVE "NOTHING FURTHER TO DO
WITH SMITH ON THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING A
RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT". SURPRISED WITH THIS NEWS, I TOLD
BANDA I HAD UNDERSTOOD ZAMBIA WANTED SOUTH AFRICA AGAIN TO
INTERCEDE WITH SMITH TO HAVE NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED IN AN
INTERNATIONAL ZONE AT VICTORIA FALLS AS MEANS OF OVERCOMING
IMMUNITY OBSTACLE.

2. BANDA INDICATED THIS POSITION OVERTAKEN BY RECENT
EVENTS, A REFERENCE TO ANC SPLIT BETWEEN EX-ZANU AMD
EX-ZAPU FACTIONS AND MOST RECENT CRITICISM
OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA BY ANC EXECUTIVE MEMBER ENOS NKALA (LUSAKA
1782).

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3. DOES THIS MEAN, I ASKED, THAT THE FOUR PRESIDENTS DECIDED ON THE SECOND, ARMED CONFLICT OPTION OF LUSAKA MANIFESTO FOR SETTLEMENT OF RHODESIAN QUESTION? BANDA MERELY SAID THAT WHETHER THERE WOULD BE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS OR ESCALATED ARMED STRUGGLE WAS ENTIRELY UP TO ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS AND NOT RPT NOT A MATTER FOR THE FOUR SUPPORTING AND NEIGHBORING AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO DECIDE.

4. BANDA SAID HE WAS MEETING LATER IN DAY WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TELL HIM THAT THE FOUR PRESIDENTS THOUGHT IT WAS NOW UP TO BRITISH AND RHODESIANS. BRITISH KNEW WHAT HAD TO BE DONE TO GET NEGOTIATIONS RE-STARTED. I SAID THIS GIVES IMPRESSION ZAMBIA AND SUPPORTING AFRICAN COUNTRIES APPEAR TIRED OF WHOLE AFFAIR AND WANT TO WITHDRAW.

5. BANDA MERELY SHRUGGED AND DREW MY ATTENTION TO MINISTRY'S STATEMENT IN TODAY'S PRESS TAKING ISSUE WITH CRITICAL AND DIVISIVE STATEMENTS OF ANC EXECUTIVE MEMBER NKALA. WHY, MOFJ STATEMENT ASKED, WAS THERE AN ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE MOZAMBIQUE AND TANZANIA FROM ZAMBIA AND THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE FROM ZAMBIA. BANDA STRESSED MEETING OF MINDS OF ALL FOUR PRESIDENTS ON ISSUES OF RHODESIA AND ANGOLA AT SEPT 13 LUSAKA MEETING AND GENERAL SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION.

6. I TOLD BANDA OF US PRESS SPECULATION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. MUZOREWA OUSTER OF NKOMO FROM ANC WAS THOUGHT TO BE ILLEGAL AND IF NKOMO PERSISTENT IN CALLING ANC CONGRESS IN SALISBURY HE COULD CONCEIVABLY INSTALL HIMSELF AS LEGAL HEAD OF ANC AND THUS FACILITATE REOPENING OF TALKS WITH SMITH. BANDA LIMITED HIS COMMENT TO SAYING NKOMO WAS "LEGALLY OUT" AND HAD LITTLE CHANCE OF ASSUMING ANC LEADERSHIP.

7. COMMENT: BANDA SAID HE SOUGHT AND OBTAINED PRIOR CLEARANCE FOR OUR CONVERSATION FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA, WHO AUTHORIZED HIM TO SPEAK TO BRITISH AS WELL. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH CHONA AS TO JUST WHERE ZAMBIA'S DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND SMITH HAS BEEN LEFT IN WAKE
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OF FOUR PRESIDENTS' DECISION TO DROP THEIR SUPPORT FOR NEGOTIATIONS. WE WONDER IF NYERERE AND MACHEL MAY NOT HAVE COUNSELED KAUNDA TO COOL HIS DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA FOR TIME BEING RATHER THAN RISK ANOTHER OPEN SETBACK. IN MEANTIME, AND PENDING A FURTHER READING FROM STATE HOUSE AUTHORS OF ZAMBIA'S NEW POLICY NOT TO PUSH FOR NEGOTIATIONS, I BELIEVE WE ARE BEST ADVISED TO CONTINUE TO SUSPEND (STATE'S 216482) ANY DEMARCHE TO SOUTH AFRICANS TO

WORK ON SMITH AS WAS EARLIER RECOMMENDED IN LUSAKA'S
1685 AND PRETORIA'S 3385. I WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS
FROM AMBASSADOR BOWDLER ON THIS.
WILKBWSKI

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